

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEAE-00 EPA-01 OES-03 CEQ-01 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 EB-07 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 /079 W

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O 191743Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5251

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: DESIRE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY TO DRIVE FROM BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 2189

(B) STATE 21140

(C) BONN 1298

(D) BONN 11892(7/26/74)

SUMMARY: THE FRG WOULD LIKE TO LIFT ITS POLICY OF
SELF-DENIAL ON USE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES FOR THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRON-
MENTAL AGENCY (FEA). ALLIED REPS IN THE BONN GROUP,
WHILE EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT THE DECISION IS
ESSENTIALLY ONE FOR THE FRG TO TAKE, HAVE AGREED
WITH THE OPINION OF THE FRG REP THAT THE FIRST
PROBE SHOULD NOT BE MADE AT THE HEIGHT OF THE
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HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE DECEMBER 18 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (LUECKING) INFORMED THE ALLIED REPS THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEA WOULD LIKE TO DRIVE FROM BERLIN TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BY PRIVATE CAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES WHICH THE GDR INSTITUTED TO PROTEST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA IN BERLIN IN THE SUMMER OF 1974, THE FRG ADOPTED A POLICY OF SELF-DENIAL SO FAR AS TRAVEL BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEA WERE CONCERNED (REFTELS). OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE FEA HAVE USED THE TRANSIT ROUTES WITHOUT INCIDENT, BUT UNTIL NOW THE FRG HAS CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS TOO RISKY FOR THE TWO TOP OFFICIALS TO TRY TO DRIVE.

3. LUECKING SAID THAT AT A MEETING A WEEK AGO AT STATE SECRETARY LEVEL IT WAS DECIDED THAT, NOW THAT THE INNER-GERMAN TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, THE QUESTION SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED. WHILE A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN REACHED EVERYONE CONCERNED WAS AWARE OF THE NECESSITY OF SPEAKING TO THE ALLIES. LUECKING EMPHASIZED THAT IN PARTICULAR, NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AS TO THE DATE OF THE PROPOSED TRAVEL.

4. THE GERMAN PLAN WOULD BE TO USE A THREE-STAGE APPROACH: FIRST, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEA WOULD MAKE THE TRIP IN HIS PRIVATE CAR; IN THE SECOND STAGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEA WOULD TRAVEL BY PRIVATE CAR; THE THIRD STAGE WOULD BE TRAVEL BY OFFICIAL CAR. THERE WOULD BE RECONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION BEFORE EACH SUCCESSIVE STAGE.

5. WITH REGARD TO TIMING, LUECKING SAID THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY (THE PARENT ORGANIZATION OF THE FEA) THOUGHT THE FEA VICE PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE THE TRIP ON DECEMBER 22 (APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE BELIEF THAT THE INCREASED HOLIDAY TRAFFIC LESSENED THE CHANCES OF AN INCIDENT). LUECKING SAID HE HAD ARGUED WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AGAINST THAT DATE AND PERSONALLY CONSIDERED JANUARY 2 FAR PREFERABLE. HE HAD TOLD THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HE WOULD NOT TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASKING THE ALLIES TO AGREE THAT THE EXPERIMENT BE CONDUCTED THREE DAYS BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. IF THINGS

WENT WRONG, HE ADDED, THERE WOULD BE A PUBLIC OUTCRY AND DEMANDS TO KNOW WHO HAD AUTHORIZED SUCH AN EXPERIMENT, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE HOLIDAY TRAFFIC AND WHILE THE INK WAS HARDLY DRY ON THE NEW TRANSIT AGREEMENTS.

6. ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION AS TO WHAT QUESTION HE WAS PUTTING TO THE ALLIES, LUECKING SAID THERE WERE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20588

TWO: SHOULD WE TRY IT, AND, IF YES, SHOULD IT BE JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS OR JUST AFTER?

7. THE FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) GAVE A THREE-PART ANSWER: IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A GERMAN PROBLEM; IF HE WERE A GERMAN, HE WOULD NOT TRY SUCH EXPERIMENTS;

BUT IF HE TRIED THEM, HE WOULD NOT DO SO BEFORE THE NEW YEAR. BOISSIEU ELABORATED THAT THE FRG HAD EVERYTHING TO LOSE AND NOTHING TO GAIN. IF THE EXPERIMENT WENT WELL (AND IF THE OFFICIAL SLIPPED THROUGH IN THE RUSH OF HOLIDAY TRAFFIC, THERE WOULD BE NO WAY OF KNOWING FOR SURE WHY THE EXPERIMENT HAD WORKED), THE FRG HOPEFULLY WOULD NOT PUBLISH A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT A PRECEDENT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE EXPERIMENT BACK-FIRED, IT WOULD ONLY RENEW THE ENTIRE QUARREL OVER THE FEA. CONFIDENTIAL

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8. THE US REP ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE FRENCH REMARKS. HE AGREED THAT THE DECISION WAS ESSENTIALLY ONE FOR THE FRG TO TAKE. BECAUSE THE US AGREED THAT EVERYONE, INCLUDING FEA OFFICIALS, WAS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO USE THE TRANSIT ROUTES UNDER THE SOVIET QA GUARANTEE OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS, THE US WOULD DOUBTLESS FEEL OBLIGED TO JOIN IN ANY NECESSARY PROTESTS OVER INTERFERENCE WITH THE TRAVEL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE FULLY AGREED THAT IF THE EXPERIMENT WERE TO BE MADE IT WOULD BE BETTER AFTER THE HOLIDAYS THAN BEFORE.

9. THE UK REP, WHILE RELUCTANT TO COMMENT BEFORE HE HAD CONSULTED LONDON, VERY TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT GDR ANGER OVER THE SNUBBING OF KOHL IN BAVARIA AND THE FACT THAT THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT HAD JUST BEEN CONCLUDED ARGUED AGAINST AN EARLY EXPERIMENT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT IF THERE WERE A BACKUP IN CHRISTMAS TRAVEL ON THE AUTOBAHN, THE BERLIN AND FRG TRAVELLING PUBLIC WOULD DIRECT THEIR IRE AT THE FRG FOR HAVING GIVEN THE GDR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE AN INCIDENT AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME.

10. LUECKING SUMMARIZED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE VIEWS OF THE ALLIED REPS TO BE THAT THE DECISION WAS UP TO THE FRG, THAT LEGALLY THERE WAS NO OBJECTION, BUT THAT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF POLITICAL OPPORTUNENESS THE ALLIED REPS ON A PERSONAL BASIS WOULD URGE CAUTION WITH REGARD TO TIMING. HE ALSO UNDERTOOK TO INFORM THE ALLIES PROMPTLY OF THE DECISION REACHED.

11. COMMENT: GIVEN THE WAY THE QUESTION WAS PUT, THE ALLIES PRESUMABLY COULD INFLUENCE THE FRG DECISION BY EXPRESSING AN EVEN STRONGER OBJECTION TO A PROBE AT THIS TIME. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE VIEWS ALREADY EXPRESSED (IN THAT THEY GAVE LUECKING THE

BACKING HE APPARENTLY WAS LOOKING FOR TO CARRY HIS
OWN POSITION WITHIN THE FRG) WILL SERVE TO CAUSE A
POSTPONEMENT OF THE FIRST TRIP AT LEAST UNTIL
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JANUARY 2. SOONER OR LATER THE EXPERIMENT WILL HAVE
TO BE MADE, AND WE BELIEVE THE PRESENT DELAY IS ALL
WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT. WE WILL, OF COURSE, RE-
OPEN THE ISSUE IF THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT
NECESSARY.
HILLENBRAND

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